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Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

| In re:<br>BLOCKFI INC., et al., |                       | Chapter 11              |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
|                                 | Debtors. <sup>1</sup> | Case No. 22-19361 (MBK) |
|                                 |                       | (Jointly Administered)  |

FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION OF RICHARD KANOWITZ IN SUPPORT OF THE DEBTORS' APPLICATION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER UNDER 11 U.S.C. §§ 327(a), 330 AND 1107(b) AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION OF HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP AS ATTORNEYS FOR THE DEBTORS AND DEBTORS IN POSSESSION EFFECTIVE AS OF THE PETITION DATE PURSUANT TO LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULE 2014-1(B)(1)

- I, Richard Kanowitz, being duly sworn, state the following under penalty of perjury:
- 1. I am a partner in the law firm of Haynes and Boone LLP ("Haynes and Boone"),

30 Rockefeller Plaza, 26th Floor, New York, New York 10112. I am a member in good standing

<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: BlockFi Inc. (0015); BlockFi Trading LLC (2487); BlockFi Lending LLC (5017); BlockFi Wallet LLC (3231); BlockFi Ventures LLC (9937); BlockFi International Ltd. (N/A)); BlockFi Investment Products LLC (2422); BlockFi Services, Inc. (5965) and BlockFi Lending II LLC (0154). The location of the Debtors' service address is 100 Horizon Center Blvd., 1st and 2nd Floors, Hamilton, NJ 08691.

of the Bars of the State of New Jersey and New York, and I am admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York. There are no disciplinary proceedings pending against me.

- 2. On November 28, 2022 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), BlockFi Inc. and its debtor affiliates (collectively, "<u>BlockFi</u>" or the "<u>Debtors</u>") filed voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 3. On December 22, 2022, the Debtors filed their Application of the Debtors for Entry of an Order Authorizing the Employment and Retention of Haynes and Boone LLP as Attorneys for the Debtors and Debtors in Possession Effective as of the Petition Date Pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 2014-1(B)(1) [Docket No. 134] (the "Retention Application"). Concurrently therewith, the Debtors filed the Declaration of Richard Kanowitz in Support of the Debtors' Application of the Debtors for Entry of an Order Authorizing the Employment and Retention of Haynes and Boone LLP as Attorneys for the Debtors and Debtors in Possession Effective as of the Petition Date Pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 2014-1(B)(1) [Docket No. 134, Ex. A] (the "Original Declaration").
- 4. On January 24, 2023, Haynes and Boone filed the Supplemental Declaration of Richard Kanowitz in Support of the Debtors' Application for Entry of an Order Authorizing the Employment and Retention of Haynes and Boone LLP as Attorneys for the Debtors and Debtors

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Application.

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in Possession Effective as of the Petition Date Pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 2014-1(B)(1) [Docket No. 376] (the "First Supplemental Declaration").

- 5. On January 24, 2023, the Court entered its *Order Approving the Employment and Retention of Haynes and Boone, LLP as Bankruptcy Co-Counsel for the Debtors and Debtors in Possession Effective as of the Petition Date* [Docket No. 393] (the "Retention Order").
- 6. On February 24, 2023, Haynes and Boone filed the Second Supplemental Declaration of Richard Kanowitz in Support of the Debtors' Application for Entry of an Order Authorizing the Employment and Retention of Haynes and Boone LLP as Attorneys for the Debtors and Debtors in Possession Effective as of the Petition Date Pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 2014-1(B)(1) [Docket No. 555] (the "Second Supplemental Declaration").
- 7. On May 24, 2023, Haynes and Boone filed the *Third Supplemental Declaration of Richard Kanowitz in Support of the Debtors' Application for Entry of an Order Authorizing the Employment and Retention of Haynes and Boone LLP as Attorneys for the Debtors and Debtors in Possession Effective as of the Petition Date Pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 2014-1(B)(1)* [Docket No. 989] (the "Third Supplemental Declaration", and together with the Original Declaration, First Supplemental Declaration and Second Supplemental Declaration, the "Supplemental Declarations").
- 8. In connection with the Retention Application and the Supplemental Declarations, I submit this fourth supplemental declaration (the "Fourth Supplemental Declaration") to provide additional disclosures in accordance with Bankruptcy Rules 2014(a) and 2016(b) and as required under the Retention Order. Except as otherwise noted, I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein.

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#### **Supplemental Disclosures**

- 9. This Fourth Supplemental Declaration makes certain additional disclosures. As stated in the Original Declaration, Haynes and Boone represented that "[t]he Firm recognizes its continuing responsibility to be aware of, and to further disclose, any relationship or connection between it and other parties-in-interest to the Debtors' bankruptcy estates and the Chapter 11 Cases as they appear or become recognized during the Chapter 11 Cases. Accordingly, the Firm reserves the right to supplement this disclosure if necessary, as more information becomes available to the Firm." *See* Original Decl., ¶ 28. Consistent with this representation, Haynes and Boone has continued to review its files for any new relevant facts or relationships regarding all the entities disclosed in the Original Declaration, and any connections to any additional entities not disclosed in the Original Declaration or the Supplemental Declaration. Schedule 1 attached hereto includes additional parties-in-interest that Haynes and Boone has run conflict searches on since the Second Supplemental Declaration was filed.
- 10. Additionally, <u>Schedule 1</u> discloses the names of the potential M&A counterparties that were previously sealed due to the ongoing sale process, which has now been completed. For example, in the Original Declaration, "Paxos" was included on the parties-in-interest list under the Custodian category. They were listed as a Haynes and Boone client in the Original Declaration, but not redacted because of their status as a Custodian. "Paxos Trust Company, LLC" was included in the supplemental parties-in-interest list under the Potential M&A Counterparties category. Paxos was again listed as a Haynes and Boone client in Schedule 2 to the Second Supplemental Declaration but was redacted because of its status as a Potential M&A Counterparty. Haynes and Boone did not receive any payments from Paxos in either 2022 or 2021, and their payments to

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Haynes and Boone in 2020 were de minimis. Paxos is now fully disclosed in the Schedules 1 and 2 attached hereto.

- 11. In the Second Supplemental Declaration, Haynes and Boone disclosed several connections to potential parties-in-interest in the Chapter 11 Cases that are current clients of Haynes and Boone. Over the last two years, each of those clients constituted a de minimis amount of the firm's yearly revenue and were in total less than two percent (2%) of the firm's total yearly revenue.
- 12. In the Third Supplemental Declaration, Haynes and Boone made certain additional disclosures of certain Parties-in-Interest to whom Haynes and Boone originally had no connections but subsequently became new firm clients on unrelated matters.
- 13. Since the filing of the Third Supplemental Declaration, additional parties-in-interest have appeared in the case which were not previously run through the firm's conflicts system. The names of those parties-in-interest are listed on **Schedule 1** attached hereto, along with the unredacted names of the Potential M&A Counterparties. **Schedule 2** contains the names of entities that became parties-in-interest since the filing of the Second Supplemental Declaration that are current clients (or affiliates thereof) of Haynes and Boone on unrelated matters and repeats disclosures made in previous declarations, only this time Haynes and Boone does not redact the names of the Potential M&A Counterparties or any other entities. None of these current clients represented more than two percent (2%) of Haynes and Boone's yearly fee receipts for the last two years.
- 14. Pursuant to the Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order Authorizing the Debtors to File Under Seal the Names of Certain Confidential Parties in Interest Related to the Debtors' Professional Retention Applications [Docket No. 127] (the "Motion to Seal"), and to avoid

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prejudicing the Debtors' sale processes, the Debtors redacted the names of "Potential M&A Counterparties" in each of the Prior Declarations. On March 24, 2023, the Bankruptcy Court entered the Order (I) Approving the Sale of Certain of the Debtors' Self-Mining Assets Free and Clear of All Claims, Liens, Rights, Interests and Encumbrances, (II) Authorizing the Debtors to Enter Into and Perform Their Obligations Under the Asset Purchase Agreement, and (III) Granting Related Relief [Docket No. 669] authorizing the sale of certain of the Debtors' self-mining assets to U.S. Farms & Mining Opportunity Fund LLC ("U.S. Farms").

- 15. Upon finalizing the sale to U.S. Farms, and the conclusion of the sale process for the Debtors' self-mining assets and the marketing process for the potential sale of the Debtors' other assets, the Debtors (which are now the Wind-Down Debtors), at the request of the United States Trustee for the District of New Jersey, agreed to disclose publicly those certain Potential M&A Counterparties that related to the sale process (the "<u>Unredacted Potential M&A</u> Counterparties"), which are included in Schedule 1(c).
- 16. As more fully disclosed in Schedule 2, the connections set forth on Schedule 2 do not constitute a disqualifying conflict of interest.<sup>3</sup> Haynes and Boone's representation of the Debtors is now complete, and Haynes and Boone represents the Plan Administrator and Wind-Down Debtors post-effective date.
- 17. As of the date of this Fourth Supplemental Declaration, based on the conflicts search conducted to date and described herein, to the best of my knowledge and insofar as I have been able to ascertain, I believe that Haynes and Boone remains (a) a "disinterested person" within the meaning of section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code, as required by section 327(a) of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Section "327(a) is written in the present tense: it bars the retention of professionals who 'hold or represent' adverse interests. It only allows disqualifications for adverse interests that exist at the time of retention." *In re Boy Scouts of Am.*, 35 F.4th 149, 158, n. 5 (3d Cir. 2022).

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Bankruptcy Code, and does not hold or represent an interest adverse to the Debtors' estates and

(b) has no connection to the Debtors, their creditors, or other parties in interest.

18. Accordingly, Haynes and Boone reserves the right to further supplement this

disclosure if necessary. The foregoing constitutes my supplemental declaration and that of Haynes

and Boone pursuant to section 327 of the Bankruptcy Code and Rules 2014(a) and 2016 of the

Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States, that the

foregoing statements are true and correct.

Dated: November 7, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Richard S. Kanowitz

Richard S. Kanowitz

Partner, Haynes and Boone LLP

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# SCHEDULE 1 List of Schedules

| <b>Schedule</b> | <u>Category</u>                         |
|-----------------|---|
| 1(a)            | Additional Non-Debtor Professionals     |
| 1(b)            | Additional Potential M&A Counterparties |
| 1(c)            | Unredacted Potential M&A Counterparties |

## **SCHEDULE 1(a)**

#### **Additional Non-Debtor Professionals**

Andrews Devalerio LLP Bronstein, Gewirtz & Grossman, LLC Gerro & Gerro Goldstein & McClintock LLLP Grant & Eisenhofer P.A. Jack Shrum, P.A. Latham & Watkins LLP Law Offices of Douglas T. Tabachnik, P.C. Lazare Potter Giacovas & Moyle LLP Lowenstein Sandler LLP Middlebrooks Shapiro, P.C. Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads, LLP Offit Kurman, P.A. Pomerantz LLP Porzio, Bromberg & Newman, P.C. Shearman & Sterling LLP Zuckerman Gore Brandeis & Crossman, LLP

# **SCHEDULE 1(b)**

# **Additional Potential M&A Counterparties**

Amalgamated Token Services, Inc.
Castle Island Ventures
GXD Labs LLC
Nine Realms, Inc.
Van Eck Absolute Return Advisors Corporation

#### SCHEDULE 1(c)

## **Unredacted Potential M&A Transaction Counterparties**

21.co 3iQ Corp.

AB CarVal Investors LP Abrams Capital LLC

Aeagean Group Holdings, LLC Amun Holdings Limited Anchorage Capital Group LLC Antalpha Capital (BVI) Ltd Antalpha Technologies Ltd. AP Capital Investment Limited Apollo Global Management Inc.

Arca

Ares Management Corp.

ARK Investment Management LLC

Arkon Energy

Aspen Creek Digital Corporation Atalaya Capital Management LP

Atlas Holdings LLC

Atlas Power

Atlas Power Group

Atlas Technology Group LLC AVGSF - BlockFi 2021, LLC

Bain Capital LP

Bain Capital Partnership Strategies

Bakkt BankProv

Baupost Group LLC, The

BC Partners
Big Brain
Binance US
Binance.com
Bitdeer
Bitfarms Ltd.
BitFuFu

BitOoda Holdings Inc.

Bitrush, Inc. Bitso

Bitstamp Limited Blackbird Advisory

BlackRock Inc. Blackstone Inc.

Block Inc.

Blockstream Corp. Inc.

Blockware Solutions LLC

Blue Owl Capital Inc.

Brevan Howard Brigade Capital

BTC Mining Company Cadenza Ventures

Canyon Capital Advisors

Castlelake Centerbridge

Cerberus Capital Management

Chicago Atlantic

Cipher CleanSpark Columbia Pacific Compass Mining ConsenSys

Cormint Data Systems Inc.

Cross Tower Crusoe Energy

Cumberland DRW LLC Cumulus Coin LLC D&P Recovery Services

D.E. Shaw

Davidson Kempner Diameter Capital Partners Digihost Technology

Discovery Capital Management

Disrupt Ventures LLC Dragonfly Capital EJF Capital

Elliott Investment Management

**Energy Miner LLC** 

Enhanced Digital Group Inc.

EQT eToro FalconX Figment Inc. Fir Tree Partners Flowdesk

Forest Road Asset Management LLC

Fortress Investment Group

Foundry Digital Framework Ventures Francisco Partners FRNT Financial Inc. Galaxy Digital Holdings

Gemini Trust Co. Genesis Digital Assets GIC Special Opportunities Gilley Enterprises LLC

Global X Management Co. LLC GoldenTree Asset Management LP

Gordon, Angelo GSR Markets Limited

HPS Investment Partners LLC Hudson Bay Capital Management LP Hunting Hill Global Capital, LLC

**Hut 8 Mining** 

Icebreaker Finance Pty Ltd. ICONIQ Capital LLC Iman Capital Partners Ltd.

INX

Iris Energy Ltd.

Jane Street Group LLC Jane Street Group, LLC

Kennedy Lewis Investment Management

LLC

King Street Capital Management LP Kingsway Capital Partners Ltd.

KKR & Co. Inc. Kryptovault Ledn Inc.

Luxor Technologies Inc.

M1 Finance

Macquarie Group Ltd. Magnetar Capital LLC

Maple Finance

Marathon Digital Holdings Inc. Mariner Investment Group LLC Matrixport Technologies Ltd.

MaxBoring LLC

Medallion Consulting Services LLC

Merkle Standard Metavesco, Inc. Milo Holdings, Inc. Mission Lane LLC

Monarch Alternative Capital LP

Morgan Stanley Murchinson Ltd. New York Digital Investment Group LLC

Nexo Inc.

NextEra Energy Inc. Nixon Peabody LLP North Rock Digital LLP

NovaWulf Digital Management LP NYDIG Asset Management LLC Oak Hill Capital Management LLC

Oaktree

One River Asset Management LLC Outset Global Trading Limited

Owl Creek

P. Schoenfeld Asset Management LP

Paloma Partners LLC ParaFi Capital LP Parataxis Capital

Paribu

Paxos Trust Company, LLC

Payward Inc.

Peak Rock Capital LLC

Pentwater Capital Management LP

Pepper Hu LTD
Pi Consulting
Pivotal Group Inc.
Public Holdings, Inc.
Quantum Technoloy

Redwood Capital Management LLC

Riot Blockchain Inc.

SAI.TECH

Sculptor Capital Management Inc. Senator Investment Group LP

Serene Investment Management LLC

Sesterce US Inc.

Silver Point Capital LP

Sixth Street

SkyBridge Capital SpiderMining Inc. Statar Energy US Inc.

Stonepeak Stronghold

SunnySide Digital

Supplybit Talen Energy Talos Trading, Inc.

Temasek Thoma Bravo Thomas Bravo LP
Thomas H. Lee
Thomas H. Lee Partners LP
Thunder Bridge Capital LLC
U.S. Data Group, Inc.
US Farms and Mining Inc
VCV Digital
Vistra Group
WhiteHawk Capital Partners
WhiteHawk Capital Partners LP
Wisdom Tree
WonderFi Technologies Inc.
XBTO

# **SCHEDULE 2**

| Name of Entity<br>Searched             | Name of Entity<br>and/or Affiliate of<br>Entity, that is a<br>Current or Former<br>HB Client | Status   |
|--|--|--|
| Bain Capital<br>Partnership Strategies | Bain Capital Credit  | The Firm represents Bain Capital Credit on matters unrelated to the Debtors or the Chapter 11 Cases. This client was previously disclosed but redacted in public filings.  |
| Davidson Kempner                       | Davidson Kempner<br>Capital Management<br>LP   | The Firm represents Davidson Kempner Capital Management LP on matters unrelated to the Debtors or the Chapter 11 Cases. This client was previously disclosed but redacted in public filings.                     |
| Dragonfly Capital                      | Dragonfly Ventures,<br>LP  | The Firm represents Dragonfly Ventures, LP, an affiliate of Dragonfly Capital, on matters unrelated to the Debtors or the Chapter 11 Cases. This client was previously disclosed but redacted in public filings. |
| Forest Road Asset<br>Management LLC    | Forest Road Asset<br>Management  | The Firm represents Forest Road Asset Management on matters unrelated to the Debtors or the Chapter 11 Cases. This client was previously disclosed but redacted in public filings.                               |
| Fortress Investment<br>Group           | Fortress Investment<br>Group, LLC  | The Firm represents Fortress Investment Group, LLC on matters unrelated to the Debtors or the Chapter 11 Cases. This client was previously disclosed but redacted in public filings.                             |
| Hudson Bay Capital<br>Management       | Hudson Bay Capital<br>Management, LP   | The Firm represents Hudson Bay Capital Management, LP on matters unrelated to the Debtors or the Chapter 11 Cases. This client was previously disclosed but redacted in public filings.                          |
| Jane Street Group,<br>LLC              | Jane Street Capital  | The Firm represents Jane Street Capital on matters unrelated to the Debtors or the Chapter 11 Cases. This client was previously disclosed but redacted in public filings.  |
| KKR                                    | The Crosby Group and Gardner Denver  | The Firm represents The Crosby Group and Gardner Denver, affiliates of KKR, on matters unrelated to the Debtors or the Chapter 11 Cases. This client was previously disclosed but redacted in public filings.    |

| Name of Entity<br>Searched     | Name of Entity<br>and/or Affiliate of<br>Entity, that is a<br>Current or Former<br>HB Client | Status   |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Latham & Watkins<br>LLP        | Latham & Watkins<br>LLP  | The Firm was retained by Latham & Watkins LLP to performs certain intellectual property litigation services on behalf of Avadel Pharmaceuticals in matters unrelated to the Debtors or the Chapter 11 Cases. Although Latham & Watkins LLP is listed as a client of the firm, the work is not performed on their behalf and is no way related to these Chapter 11 Cases. |
| Macquarie Group                | Macquarie Bank<br>Limited  | The Firm represents Macquarie Bank<br>Limited, an affiliate of Macquarie Group, on<br>matters unrelated to the Debtors or the<br>Chapter 11 Cases. This client was previously<br>disclosed but redacted in public filings.   |
| Monarch Alternative<br>Capital | Monarch Alternative<br>Capital   | The Firm represents Monarch Alternative Capital on matters unrelated to the Debtors or the Chapter 11 Cases. This client was previously disclosed but redacted in public filings.  |
| Morgan Stanley                 | Morgan Stanley Bank  | The Firm represents Morgan Stanley Bank on matters unrelated to the Debtors or the Chapter 11 Cases. This client was previously disclosed but redacted in public filings.  |
| Murchinson, Ltd.               | Murchinson LP  | The Firm represents Murchinson LP on matters unrelated to the Debtors or the Chapter 11 Cases. This client was previously disclosed but redacted in public filings.  |
| NextEra Energy                 | NextEra Energy, Inc.   | The Firm represents NextEra Energy, Inc. on matters unrelated to the Debtors or the Chapter 11 Cases. This client was previously disclosed but redacted in public filings.   |
| Paxos Trust<br>Company, LLC    | Paxos Trust Company,<br>LLC  | The Firm represents Paxos Trust Company, LLC on matters unrelated to the Debtors or the Chapter 11 Cases. This client was previously disclosed but redacted in public filings.   |
| Sculptor Capital<br>Management | Sculptor Capital<br>Investments, LLC   | The Firm represents Sculptor Capital Investments, LLC on matters unrelated to the Debtors or the Chapter 11 Cases. This client was previously disclosed but redacted in public filings.  |

| Name of Entity<br>Searched | Name of Entity<br>and/or Affiliate of<br>Entity, that is a<br>Current or Former<br>HB Client | Status   |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Silver Point Capital       | Silver Point Capital   | The Firm represents Silver Point Capital on matters unrelated to the Debtors or the Chapter 11 Cases. This client was previously disclosed but redacted in public filings.                     |
| Stronghold                 | Stronghold Resource<br>Partners  | The Firm represents Stronghold Resource<br>Partners on matters unrelated to the Debtors<br>or the Chapter 11 Cases. This client was<br>previously disclosed but redacted in public<br>filings. |